

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 14-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7, 17 and 20 are amended. Independent claim 1 is amended to change the recited units to sections. Support can be found, for example, in Fig. 2 and the related disclosure.

Independent claims 1-3 and 20 are amended to recite that the interface information is displayed as icons and that the linking information is generated according to linked icons produced by the user dragging and dropping the icons. Support can be found, for example, at Fig. 4 and the related disclosure. Claims 4-5, 7 and 17 are amended for consistency. Claim 24 is added. Support can be found, for example, in Figs. 1-2 and the related disclosure, and at page 30, lines 4-5 of the specification as filed. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Blackwell and Hutton in the July 7, 2009 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. Objection To The Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification under 35 C.F.R. §1.75(d)(1) and MPEP §608.01(o) and alleges that there is no support or antecedent basis in the specification for each "unit" in claim 1.

By this Amendment, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 4-5, 7 and 17 are amended to change each recited "unit" to a "section". Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

II. The Claims Are Statutory

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4-7, 14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §101 and alleges that claims 1, 14 and 17 are directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the term "unit" recited in the claims is not supported by the specification, alleges that one of ordinary skill would have understood the recited "units" as software

modules, and concludes on this basis that the claims are directed to software per se.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this Amendment, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 4, 5, 7 and 17 are amended to change each recited "unit" to a "section". Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. The Claims Are Patentable Over The Applied References

The Office Action 1) rejects claims 1-7, 17-20, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0198904 to Robles et al. (Robles); and 2) rejects claims 14-16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Robles in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0039647 to Roche. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Regarding independent claim 1, Robles fails to disclose: "a display which displays a first window including a first icon corresponding to first interface information acquired by the interface information acquisition section, a second window including a second icon corresponding to a linking pattern, and a third window including linked first and second icons dragged and dropped from the first and second windows by the user" and "the linking information making section makes the linking information in accordance with the linked first and second icons in the third window" (emphasis added).

Regarding independent claims 2-3 and 20, Robles fails to disclose: "wherein the pieces of interface information are displayed as icons" and "the step of making linking information includes (i) linking selected ones of the displayed icons in accordance with a user operation, the user operation including dragging and dropping the selected ones of the icons corresponding to respective pieces of interface information to generate linked icons, and (ii) making the linking information in accordance with the linked icons" (emphasis added) as recited in claims 2-3 and similarly in claim 20.

As agreed at the personal interview, the applied references do not disclose the use of icons in producing linking information as claimed. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections.

IV. Claim 24

New claim 24 includes the features of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 4.

Regarding claim 24, the applied references, if combined, fail to disclose: (1) "a display which displays a first window including a first icon corresponding to first interface information acquired by the interface information acquisition section, a second window including a second icon corresponding to a linking pattern, and a third window including linked first and second icons dragged and dropped from the first and second windows by the user" and (2) "the linking information making section makes the linking information in accordance with the linked first and second icons in the third window" (emphasis added).

The applied references fail to disclose features (1)-(2) for the same reasons as discussed in relation to independent claim 1. Thus, claim 24 is patentable over the applied references.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jonathan H. Backenstose
Registration No. 47,399

JAO:JHB/mcp

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: July 20, 2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
